



Sen. Joyce Mulliken
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Committee Assignments

Land Use & Planning (Chair)
Highways & Transportation
Higher Education

Senate Bills to Watch

SB 5728 – the Liability Reform Act of 2003. Several amendments were heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. Some were adopted and some failed. *(The bill passed the Judiciary Committee on Thursday and is now in the Rules Committee.)*

SB 5775 – Establishes a new tax on RVs. *(This bill passed the Senate Parks, Fish & Wildlife Committee and is now in Ways and Means.)*

SB 5108 – Removing statutory authority for access to private property. *(This bill passed the Land Use & Planning Committee and is now in Rules)*

SB 5409 – Providing for direct petition annexation. *(Passed Land Use & Planning and is now in Senate Rules.)*

Sen. J oyce Mulliken's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

2/28/03

Dear Friends,

I have received ample feedback from many of you who receive this update. I want to thank you for your encouragement and kind words.

Also, several of you have contacted my office on a proposed bill that will help plug the budget hole in our state parks system by adding a new tax on RVs. I want you to know that at this time, I do not support the bill.

Senate Bill 5775 has several sponsors, both Republican and Democrat. The idea is to replace the newly installed parking fees in state parks and help keep some parks open by imposing a .8 percent excise tax on the fair market value of motor homes, travel trailers and campers. All revenue collected from this proposed tax will be deposited in a dedicated fund for capital improvements, maintenance and on-going operations at state parks facilities.

This new tax would cost – on average – \$360 per year for an average motor home and would raise about \$13 million per year.

My position on this issue right now is simple. I don't think we should be laying the financial burden of patching up our state park system on the backs of a specific group of users. I seriously question the logic of making RVs owners – who possibly use our parks the least because of weight and size restrictions – shoulder the weight for the rest of us.

Senate Bill 5775 passed the Senate Parks, Fish & Wildlife Committee last week and is now in the Senate Ways & Means Committee where the fiscal concerns will be examined more closely. Whether you are for or against this legislation, I encourage you to call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 to express your opinions. The Chair of the Ways & Means Committee is Sen. Dino Rossi.

As always, please contact my office with your questions or concerns. It continues to be a pleasure to serve you in our state government.

Sincerely,

Sen. Jovce Mulliken. 13th Legislative District

Senate bills rein in state agency authority

State Sen. Joyce Mulliken, a Republican from Ephrata, voted for the bills that passed the Republican-controlled Senate.

“These bills are designed to make the government more accountable to the people,” said **Mulliken**. “In many cases, state agency rules are adopted with no accountable oversight. More and more, these agencies usurp the power and responsibilities of the legislative branch of government.”

-- *Ellensburg Daily Record*, 2/13/03